

TEN COMMON REASONS ANTIBIOTIC CONTAMINATION OCCURS IN BULK TANK MILK

1. Milk from a treated cow was accidentally routed into the pipeline because the treated cow was not clearly marked.
2. The person who treated the cow forgot to tell the person milking that the cow was treated.
3. An antibiotic-treated dry cow was unintentionally milked.
4. The same milking unit was used to milk an antibiotic-treated cow before milking untreated cows. The milking unit was not cleaned and sanitized between uses.
5. Lactating cows were purchased and the new owner was unaware of recent antibiotic treatments prior to sale.
6. One quarter of a cow was treated for mastitis and withheld from the bulk tank. However, milk from the other three quarters was **NOT** withheld and was permitted to enter the pipeline.
7. Equipment used to milk treated cows was not used properly; for example, vacuum from the milk pipeline was used to operate dump-milk buckets.
8. All antibiotic-treated cows were milked last, but the milk line was not diverted from the bulk tank.
9. Antibiotic residues remained in the milk of a cow that was treated in extra-label fashion. These are the cows which should be tested individually.
10. Medicated feed was accidentally mixed into the lactating-cow feed.